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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/579,909 | 05/26/2000 | BARRY N. GELLMAN | BSC-035CN | 9128 |

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EXAMINER

HO, UYEN T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3731

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 09/579,909 | GELLMAN ET AL. |
| | Examiner (Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho | Art Unit 3731 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2000.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 10-15 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 10-15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawing(s) are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3-4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 10-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Galitzer (5,792,142).

In regard to claims 10-12, Galitzer discloses an anchor device (figs. 1-15) including a cone-shaped head (10) having a wide end (42), a narrow end (54), three cutting edges (52, 54, 58), wherein the cutting edges are inherently sharp (enough to cut). The cutting edges come together to form a pointed tip (16) and the cutting edges are defined by at least one curved surface (concave curved facet, col. 3, line 41 to col. 6, line 62).

In regard to claim 14, a collar member (40) disposed near the wide end of the head.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Galitzer '142 in view of Borzone et al. (5,814,070). Galitzer discloses a suture anchor including a cone-shaped head having wide end, narrow end, three cutting edges forming a pointed tip and a shaft (12) (figs. 1-8, col. 3, line 41 to col. 6, line 62). Although, Galitzer fails to disclose the anchor comprising titanium and an eyelet on the shaft for receiving a suture, attention is directed to the Borzone et al. reference which discloses a suture anchor made from titanium (col. 4, line 24 to 29), the anchor including a cone-shaped head, a shaft and an eyelet on the shaft for receiving a suture (figs. 4 and 6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the Galitzer's anchor from titanium and employ a shaft including an eyelet for receiving and securing the suture. Doing so would provide a sufficient strength for the anchor and a better securing mean for securing the suture on the anchor.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rosenberg (1,978,145) and Simon et al. (6,264,677) disclose

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anchorage devices including at least two cutting edges coming together to form a pointed tip.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho whose telephone number is (703) 306-3421. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 -5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Milano can be reached on (703) 308-2496. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3590 for regular communications and (703) 305-3590 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.


(Jackie) Tan-Uyen T. Ho
January 17, 2002


MICHAEL J. MILANO
PRIMARY EXAMINER